

Amendments to Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-119. (Cancelled)

120. (New) A method for handling information about a connection with a telephone on an SS7-controlled network for a telephone conference having two or more conferees comprising:

receiving at a switch interface a message containing at least one number corresponding to the telephone for setting up the connection on the network;

sending from the switch interface via an IP network a message indicating successful connection to the telephone;

receiving at the switch interface an SS7 message containing information indicating the connection on the network has been interrupted by an on-hook condition; and

sending an on-hook message via the IP network responsive to said SS7 message.

121. (New) The method of claim 120 wherein the message containing at least one number is received by the switch interface via the IP network.

122. (New) The method of claim 121 further comprising converting the message containing at least one telephone number to an SS7 message for initiating a connection.

123. (New) The method of claim 122 further comprising receiving at the switch interface an SS7 message that characterizes ringing.

124. (New) The method of claim 123 further comprising receiving at the switch interface an SS7 message that characterizes an off-hook condition prior to sending the message indicating successful connection.

125. (New) A method for handling information about a connection with a telephone on an SS7-controlled network for a telephone conference having two or more conferees comprising:

- receiving a message containing at least one number corresponding to a selected telephone for setting up the connection on the network;
- receiving an SS7 message that characterizes ringing;
- receiving an SS7 message that characterizes an off-hook condition;
- sending via an IP network a message indicating successful connection to the telephone;
- receiving an SS7 message containing information indicating the connection on the network has been interrupted by an on-hook condition; and
- sending an on-hook message via the IP network responsive to said SS7 message.

126. (New) The method of claim 125 wherein the message containing at least one number is received via the IP network.

127. (New) The method of claim 125 further comprising converting the message containing at least one number to an SS7 message for initiating a connection.